

**To:** Beauvais, Joel[Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov]; Southerland, Elizabeth[Southerland.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Burke, Thomas[Burke.Thomas@epa.gov]  
**From:** Enck, Judith  
**Sent:** Wed 4/6/2016 12:47:58 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: News Clips (PFOA)

**Subject: News Clips (PFOA)**

**DEC, health department answer questions during town meeting in Petersburg**

By Rachel Yonkunas

Published: April 5, 2016,

PETERSBURGH, N.Y. (NEWS10) – The New York State DEC and Department of Health answered questions about PFOA at a town meeting in Petersburg Tuesday night.

People who had carbon filters installed will have to get them replaced after the state recommended a different type because of what happened in Hoosick Falls. Reinstallation is set to begin by the end of next week.

Many are worried the problem will only continue to grow.

"If PFOA contamination is as bad as it seems to be, then many, many generations have been affected by it, and people are afraid," Dr. Alannah Fitzgerald said.

Dr. Fitzgerald is a retired professor who has lived in Petersburg her whole life. At the question and answer session with state officials, she asked why no one notified the town when Taconic Plastics reported PFOA contamination to the Department of Environmental Conservation in 2005.

"Not good enough for them to say we didn't know back then what the toxic level was because that's not an answer," she said.

Now, Rensselaer County health officials are expanding their well sampling after 25 private wells showed levels above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guideline of 100 ppt. The town's water supply showed levels below the EPA's guideline, but the town supervisor said they are working with an engineering firm to find a new water source.

But another chemical called PFOS has appeared in Mary Cownie's well. She said the DEC hasn't given her much information.

In 2009, the EPA set a provisional health advisory for PFOS at 200 ppt. According to Taconic Plastics, they've never used the chemical.

"I wonder who do we turn to rectify the situation because it didn't just come from nowhere," she said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Fitzgerald is one of many people worried about bottled water that has only been made available twice a week.

The county said 66 water samples are pending and 297 are on the waiting list. The NYSDOH will also offer biomonitoring for people in Petersburg at the Armory in Hoosick Falls.

## **Health, DEC Officials Meet with Petersburg Residents**

TW Cable news

By Tanja Rekhi

April 5, 2016

"Things take time, and I would love to have this all go away tomorrow," said Petersburg Town Supervisor Peter Schaaphok, "but it's not. It's going to be a situation that we work through for quite some time."

That's more time than neighbors in Petersburg have the patience for. Now they want answers.

Dozens piled in to the Petersburg Veterans Memorial Community Center to hear from state officials for the first time since learning their water is contaminated with the man-made chemical PFOA.

So far, 158 water samples have been collected.

"It is a man-made chemical," said Emily Marpe. "It does not belong in my well at all."

According to the EPA, the chemical has been linked to cancer and thyroid issues. Marpe's water tested at one of the highest -- 21 times over the federal limit.

A carbon filter has been installed at her house since she first learned about the contamination. But that will have to be reinstalled after a new recommendation from the state.

"I'll never drink the water again," Marpe said. "I won't. I won't trust it."

Unlike Emily, Mandy Niegoda's water tested positive for PFOS. After attending a meeting last month, she came to Tuesday nights meeting hoping to learn what that even is, and if she can get a filter installed.

"I've got no information from anybody here. No communication at all," Niegoda said.

Instead of waiting for answers, the two mothers sought those answers themselves, and shared them with neighbors when they come to pick up gallons of water at town hall -- water provided by Taconic Plastics, believed to be the source of the contaminant.

"We passed out the information to residents coming in, and we had two petitions there," Niegoda said. "One for water delivery and another petition to have blood work done."

The Department of Health will offer blood sampling and monitoring, and the women hope it isn't too late for the next generation.

"I don't like the fact that I've been drinking contaminated water forever, and that my kids have been drinking it," Marpe said. "I'm mad."

WRGB

### **Petersburgh town meeting on PFOA**

By Kimberly Howard

Tuesday, April 5th 2016

PETERSBURGH- A town meeting in Petersburg Tuesday left people who attended with more questions than answers about a water contamination crisis in their community.

Town and county leaders along with the New York State Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation detailed the test results of more private wells, many of them displaying high levels of a dangerous chemical called PFOA.

"I think they're ill prepared," resident Emily Marpe said.

Marpe says her private well, which is less than a half mile from Taconic Plastics, tested at a whopping 2,100 parts per trillion. That is 21 times the level the regional Environmental Protection Agency has deemed as safe.

"Our laws need to change. Unregulated needs to become regulated. It's that simple," Marpe said.

Marpe is concerned about her family, especially her two children.

"I mean, basically they've been poisoned for the last five years and as a mom it's a hard pill to swallow because I thought it was our dream house," Marpe said.

Marpe, and several other residents who spoke out at the meeting, say it is difficult to pick up bottled water when it is only available in the basement of the town hall two days a week.

"I think Taconic has a responsibility. I think they have a responsibility to step up their

game," Marpe said.

Representatives on the panel at Tuesday's meeting say they are working with the plastics company to figure out better options.

"I'm asking them to be patient. Everyone has been working very hard on this and trying to come up with a solution," Petersburg Town

Supervisor Peter Schaaphok said.

Meanwhile, officials revealed that as of March 31st a total of 158 water samples have been taken from wells in town. The results of 66 samples are still pending and roughly the same amount show some level of PFOA.

"It's just devastating," resident Laura Harrison said.

Harrison is waiting to have her private well tested but she says she is sure to feel the impact, even if results come back negative.

"I mean it's going to be that trend where my value of my property is going to be affected. It's going to be that domino affect," Harrison said.

Officials at Tuesday's meeting said filtration systems are being installed on private wells that tested above the EPA's regional threshold of 100 parts per trillion but they say there has been a delay as they are altering the type of granular carbon that is being used in those filters.

The town is also working to get a temporary filtration system on their municipal well and eventually an alternative water source but the town supervisor says that will all take time.

###